

this special unit of Peace Corp volunteers were also deployed to Sri Lanka and Thailand to assist with rebuilding tsunami-devastated areas.

Today, I am proud to honor 27 Rhode Islanders currently serving in the Peace Corps. I wish them the very best in all their endeavors and I thank them for their service to our country in this important time in history. Their names are as follows:

Catherine M. Alexander, Courtney E. Briar, Anthony J. Cabral, Mayerlin Caridad Mejia, Rebecca L. Champlin, Caroline C. Cutting, Jennifer S. Doo, Shayne E. Doyle, Catherine Farrell, Amanda H. Fogle-Donmoyer, Heron E. Greenesmith, Geoffrey L. Jones, Jesse B. Joseph, Anna D. Karolyshyn, Maria K. Kasparian, Christopher A. Kelley, Caroline N. Klein, Marie A. Kobayashi, Mark A. Lange, Andrew J. Moulton, Leana A. Nordstrom, David M. Reynolds, Ralph W. Riccio, Christi M. Turner, Evan R. Usler, Deborah L. Vittner, and Erica K. Zaiser.

KRESMIR COSIC

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of the greatest foreign athletes to play in my home State of Utah—Kresmir Cosic.

My dear friend from Yugoslavia fell victim to cancer in 1995, but this Saturday, Brigham Young University will officially retire Kresmir's No. 11 jersey during a ceremony at BYU's final home game this season. It is a fitting tribute to a four-time Olympian and two-time all-American already enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Kresmir—or Kresh, as I called him—is a legend at BYU, but he will most likely be remembered for opening the door for foreign athletes in American colleges and the NBA. He truly had a global influence—Drazen Petrovic, Toni Kukoc, Dino Radja, and Vlade Divac are just a few players who owe their success in America to their former coach from Yugoslavia.

When I visited Yugoslavia one time, Kresh heard that I would be in Zagreb and drove up from Zadar so he could introduce me to one of his former players, who was a leader of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the area. He arrived in a VW bug, and to see Kresh unwind out of that little car was a humorous experience.

I considered Kresh to be a tremendous friend. When he became the deputy ambassador for his country, he went out of his way to see me, and I was more than pleased to be an advisor and help him. He tirelessly walked the halls on Capitol Hill, trying to dispel misunderstandings about Croatia and Bosnia and the Serbian war waging in his native land.

The last time I saw Kresh was at Johns Hopkins Medical Center. The doctors thought he was in a coma, but when I spoke to him, tears came to his eyes, and a warm look of caring showed he understood my words of consolation.

After his death, when once again I was in his native land, I was pleased to

see his wife, the person he loved so much.

Mr. President, I have only mentioned just a few highlights from the life of this great man. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a touching article from the Deseret Morning News that summarizes why so many of us in Utah are looking forward to finally seeing his jersey hang from the Marriott Center's rafters this weekend.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Deseret Morning News]

LATE COUGAR COSIC'S TALENT, FUN COULDN'T BE CONTAINED

(By Dick Harmon)

Kresimir Cosic could barely fit into my '63 Volkswagen that day. But who'd have guessed this world, as well, could hardly contain him and, at the age of 46, gave him back to God.

I was just 17, putting around in my Bug when I saw the 6-foot-11 Cosic walking down the sidewalk of a street in Provo on his way to basketball practice. I stopped and asked if he wanted a ride. He said he did and he crammed himself into the car. It was like putting a praying mantis in a thimble.

The first thing Cosic did was reach over and turn on the radio. He broke out in a big smile, turned his face to mine and said: "I love the music."

In a nutshell, that epitomized all you need to know about Cosic, the Yugoslavian. He loved life. He loved basketball, and he loved playing to the largest crowds in the college game when they hatched out the Marriott Center back in 1972.

To Cosic, music played when he had a basketball in "his hands. He may have been one of the most entertaining players who ever lived. Certainly he was the most gifted passing center to play the game. As they say in Europe, Cosic was Magic Johnson before Magic Johnson.

On Saturday, folks at BYU will officially retire Cosic's No. 11 jersey during a ceremony at the final home game this season, against New Mexico. There is a generation of BYU fans who never saw Cosic play. They got robbed.

"When we toured Europe a couple of summers ago, everywhere we went, they knew BYU basketball because of Cosic," BYU coach Dave Rose said.

Cosic's resume reads like he invented basketball. In Europe, and in his native Yugoslavia, he just about did. A four-time Olympian and two-time all-American, Cosic is enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Cosic died in May 1995 of lymphatic cancer. The week before he passed, he was distraught when he talked to his former coach, Glenn Potter, because he felt he'd defeated the cancer, but in the process, he'd contracted hepatitis and was going to get a liver transplant. "The next thing I knew, he died," Potter said.

Cosic's passion for the game overwhelmed his approach to play. Cosic took more pleasure in passing the ball and setting up teammates than shooting. Still he could be heard yelling "Opa, Opa" (I'm open, I'm open). He thought himself a point guard, but he was a devastating inside player, a master of the hook, fade-away, running jumper, set shot and long bomb. He was a showman, a Globe-trotter-type star who oozed charisma on the court in an era absent of freshman varsity players, dunks and 3-point lines.

Imagine, if he played today.

"This was before the 3-point shot, and you weren't allowed to dunk the ball," remembered guard Belmont Anderson, now a podiatrist in Las Vegas. "He had a Larry Bird range with his outside shot. When he'd take it, the coaches would yell, 'no, no, no . . . good shot, Kresh.' They frowned on taking the long shot because you weren't rewarded for it. Imagine what he'd have done if the 3-point shot was in back then or if he was allowed to dunk."

Cosic was famous for leading the fast break, making a pinpoint pass or doing a jackknife lay-up, tucking in his knees, going airborne, looking like a camel in flight. He once took off against UCLA's Sidney Wicks, and the Bruin big man looked perplexed—he'd never seen a 6-11 guy playing point guard.

"He loved to dribble the ball up court," Potter said. "I remember one day in scrimmage he took off with the ball leading the break, and our point guard, Bernie Fryer, ran up behind him and stole the ball. He was upset. They were on the same team."

Said Anderson: "If you were cutting for the basket and he had the ball, you had to be alert because Cosic could hit you with a pass, and if you weren't ready, it would hit you in the head."

Cosic was a master of behind-the-back and between-the-leg deliveries, Potter added. "I remember one game in the Smith Fieldhouse, Moni Sarkalahti cut for the basket and Cosic passed the ball between his own legs, between the legs of the center guarding him, and hit Moni in the hands for a lay-in."

Former BYU assistant coach Pete Witbeck called Cosic the best center in the college game, better than Bill Walton.

Joe Watts, now executive director of the Utah Golf Association, was a sportswriter covering Cosic's final home game in Provo when he penned: "The thought leaves me with an empty feeling, a loneliness, a sadness, like I'll be losing a friend. Something really good will be leaving my life. Kresimir Cosic has brought me, and many others, some of our most enjoyable moments in basketball. He is without any question the greatest passing center I have ever seen in the game. That alone has been thrilling."

UTEP's Don Haskins, on whom Hollywood based the movie "Glory Road," called Cosic the best center in the Olympics. It was a Cosic long bomb at UTEP that handed Haskins his first defeat on the Miner home court since joining the WAC, a five-year perfect league home record.

Cosic could have had a solid NBA career. He would have sold tickets and helped TV ratings. Instead, he chose to return home to Yugoslavia and help develop others and play for the Yugoslavian Olympic team. He later became the Croatian ambassador to the United States.

"That tells you a lot about Cosic when compared to players today who won't even play in the Olympics," Anderson said. "Cosic cared about the game, his country, more than money and fame."

Potter remembers Cosic's late return from playing in the Olympics before his senior year. He missed several deadlines to return to Provo. Potter called Cosic twice and asked when he'd come back.

"Coach, I'll be there," Cosic said twice.

Finally, when he showed up in Provo, Potter asked Cosic why he'd been delayed so long, for nearly a month. Cosic told him when he was touring Yugoslavia with a national club team, he once told an audience in a gym he had a film for them to see later. It was "Man's Search for Happiness," an LDS Church film explaining the plan of salvation. After that, Cosic said, his phone was bugged and his passport was confiscated.

Potter recalls an exhausted Cosic leaning against the basketball standard at practices

that year. Potter asked him what was up and Cosic told him he was tired, he'd gone to bed about 3 or 4 in the morning the past few weeks. Potter asked him why.

Unknown to Potter, Cosic stayed up translating the Book of Mormon into Croatian. "It's something he thought was worthwhile and he had to do."

Potter remembers Cosic coming in his BYU office and debating tactics of the game, arguing strategy.

The bottom line was to give him the ball.

He was such a good passer you wanted him to have the ball in his hands.

When Cosic returned to Zadar, Yugoslavia, to coach, he invited Potter to visit him three times. One day Cosic called Potter and asked him to come to Zadar and help him with a coaching problem.

"What is it?" Potter asked.

"Coach, I don't know what to tell the guards to do."

Potter about keeled over laughing. "All those times in my office, arguing."

Cosic ended up a European hero, opening the door for foreign athletes in American colleges and the NBA. Aside from filling the new Marriott Center night after night in the early '70s, his influence was global. Those who learned at his hand or were influenced by Cosic include Drazen Petrovic, Toni Kukoc, Dino Radja and Vlade Divac—all players on Yugoslavia's 1984 Olympic team coached and handpicked by Cosic.

In his final years, working in Washington, D.C., as ambassador, Cosic worked to dispel misunderstandings about Croatia and Bosnia and the Serbian war waging in his native country.

Cosic told then Deseret News Washington correspondent Lee Davidson he'd like to get back into coaching basketball someday but wasn't sure if it was in the cards, with the cancer and all.

"But it is what I would like to do, not necessarily what I will do. You never know what will happen. My country may need me to do something more. Or maybe God will have other ideas."

He was right. Within six months of that interview, he died.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT

A TRIBUTE TO VERMONT'S OLYMPIANS

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the Vermonters participating in the recent Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. These Olympians proudly follow a long line of Vermonters competing at the highest levels of winter sports.

Three Vermonters made particularly extraordinary impressions in Turin: Hannah Teter, Bud Keene, and Lindsey Jacobellis.

Hannah Teter, of Belmont, VT, was the first Vermonter to medal in Turin when she earned the gold in the women's halfpipe competition. Hannah is very much a product of Vermont, growing up amidst the beauty of the Green Mountains in a family that embraced the outdoors. More importantly, Hannah was raised on homemade maple syrup, one of Vermont's most treasured products.

In her halfpipe competition in Turin, despite already holding a comfortable lead, Hannah won the gold medal with

a bold and inspired final run. Though I will not pretend to perfectly understand terms like front-side 900, I can tell you that Hannah's snowboarding acrobatics were some of the most impressive athletic sights I have ever seen.

Coaching Hannah to her success was Bud Keene of Moscow, VT, the U.S. Olympic snowboard team's halfpipe coach. Bud was an avid snowboarder long before the sport was included in the Olympics. Bud coached at Mount Mansfield before becoming an assistant snowboarding coach during the 2002 Olympics. Bud was named the head halfpipe coach for the 2006 Olympics and he led the team to a remarkable performance: the U.S. won an amazing two gold medals and two silver medals in the men's and women's halfpipe competitions. Bud deserves a lot of credit for the unparalleled success of the American snowboarding team at this year's games.

Vermont's second Olympic medal also came in snowboarding when Lindsey Jacobellis of Stratton, VT, earned the silver medal in the women's snowboardcross. As many know, snowboardcross is a dangerous and difficult event that requires snowboarders to navigate a narrow 1,000-yard course while avoiding the three other competitors trying to navigate the terrain at the same time. Lindsey survived two of these incredible races just to qualify for the final medal heat, where she emerged with a silver medal in a race so challenging that two of her competitors crashed and one left the course on a stretcher.

In addition to Hannah, Lindsey, and Bud, I would like to commend the other Vermonters who traveled to Turin for the Olympics. These accomplished men and women include snowboarder Kelly Clark of Mount Snow, cross-country skier Andrew Johnson of Greensboro, freestyle skier Hannah Kearney of Norwich, alpine skier Chip Knight of Stowe, cross-country skier Andrew Newell of Shaftsbury, honorary Vermonter Jimmy Cochran of the famed Olympic ski family in Richmond, and countless other athletes who have trained, studied, or lived in Vermont and competed in Turin.

I would also like to acknowledge two Olympians who are currently serving our country in the Vermont National Guard: SP Jeremy Teela and SGT Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour. An Alaskan, Jeremy competed in the biathlon in Turin, while Tuffy coached the U.S. Men's bobsled team.

We are very lucky in Vermont to have the privilege of watching and following such an impressive group of athletes. There are many reasons why our small State has so many top-tier competitors but, to steal a line from Hannah Teter, I bet one of those reasons is Vermont's great maple syrup. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment:

S. 1777. An act to provide relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 335. Concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 97th anniversary.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S.449. An act to facilitate shareholder consideration of proposals to make Settlement Common Stock under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act available to missed enrollees, eligible elders, and eligible persons born after December 18, 1971, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following members of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group, in addition to Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, Chairman, and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Vice Chairman, appointed on February 16, 2006: Mr. DREIER of California, Mr. MANZULLO of Illinois, Mr. DELAHUNT of Massachusetts, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. WELLER of Illinois, Mr. REYES of Texas, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. FORTUÑO of Puerto Rico.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 335. Concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People